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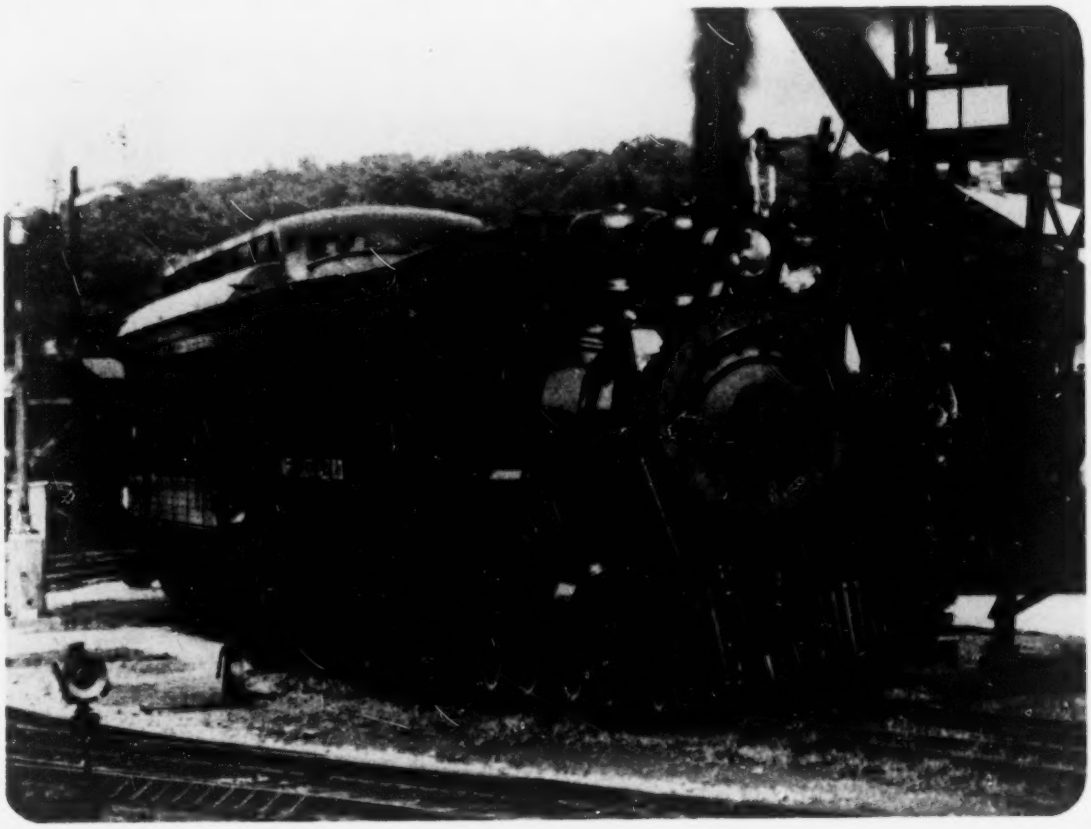
WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

MARCH 1986



DILHR
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, LABOR & HUMAN RELATIONS

WISCONSIN DATA AND SOURCES

	INDICATOR	SOURCE
L1	Composite Index of Leading Indicators	Wis.Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L2	Average Work Week, Manufacturing	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L3	Average Overtime Hours, Mfg.	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L4	Average Weekly Initial Claims	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L5	Total Job Openings Received	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L6	New Business Incorporations	Wisconsin Secretary of State
L7	Net Gain in Business Phone Access Lines	Wis. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
L8	Building Plans Examined	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C1	Help-Wanted Advertising Index (Milw.)	National Industrial Conference Board
C2	Total Unemployment Rate	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C3	Natural Gas Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C4	New Car Registrations	Wis. Department of Transportation
C5	Electric Power Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C6	Total Securities Registrations	Wisconsin Commissioner of Securities
C7	Manufacturing Employment	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C8	Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg.	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C9	Cash Receipts From Farm Marketing	U.S. Department of Agriculture
C10	Contract Construction Employment	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
X1	Birth Registrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X2	Death Registgrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X3	Natural Net Gain in Population	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X4	Marriage Registrations	Wis. Department of Health and Social Services
X5	Consumer Price Index (Milwaukee)	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
X6	Index of Prices Received By Farmers	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
X7	Net Gain in Residential Phone Access Lines	Wis. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
X8	Labor Disputes, No. of Workers	Wis. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
X9	Unemployment Compensation Exhaustees	Wis. Dept. of Industgry, Labor and Human Relations

NOTES: Selected series are seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of the Census X-11 Variant of the Census Method II Seasonal Adjustment Program. The adjusted data are plotted on arithmetic scales.

SECTION A is a summary of recent data and current changes for all indicators and is presented in chart form. The indicators are presented with cyclical timing as the principle basis of classification.

SECTION B is a summary of Wisconsin Labor Force Estimates, including Employment, Unemployment and Unemployment Rates, and selected U.S. data.

SECTION C analyzes the Wisconsin labor force by industry and by specified Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

SECTION D singles out certain economic time series as being leading or coinciding in relation to movements in aggregate economic activity. They are seasonally adjusted and presented graphically. The indicators are grouped by cyclical timing.

COVER PHOTO: Courtesy of Wisconsin Division of Tourism.

THE WISCONSIN ECONOMY

SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY

MOST OF WISCONSIN'S LEADING INDICATORS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY WANED IN FEBRUARY. THE STATE'S LABOR FORCE DIMINISHED AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCHED UP.

LEADING INDICATORS

The composite index of Wisconsin's leading economic indicators decreased in February by 3 points. The index, based on the 1979 average set to 100, had been increasing since July of last year. Most of this month's leading indicators gave negative signals for near-future economic activity. The lone exception, average weekly initial claims for unemployment compensation, bouyed the index from a much larger drop.

The average number of weekly hours spent on the job by Wisconsin's production workers in manufacturing decreased by two-tenths of an hour. The decrease is only slightly below the seasonal trend for this month...a decrease of one-tenth is normal.

Contributing to the shorter workweek is a small decrease in overtime. Had February's overtime average not fallen by one-tenth of an hour per week, the average workweek would have fit the normal seasonal pattern.

While manufacturers decreased overtime for production workers, the employers did hire in February. Manufacturing employment increased this month when the normal seasonal pattern is a slight decrease.

The number of furloughed workers making initial claims for unemployment compensation plummeted in February. The more than 4 thousand drop in the average weekly claims exceeds the usual decline, which amounts to about a 2 thousand decrease at this time of the year. Had initial claims declined at the normal pace, Wisconsin's leading indicator index would have decreased by nearly 7 points.

The number of new business incorporations in the state decreased in February. A decline of about 30 would have kept the new incorporations on the seasonal trend. Instead, new incorporations dropped by 81 this month.

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE

The total number of Wisconsin workers on the job in mid-February decreased by 7 thousand. That decrease is a reversal of the normal January-to-February increase. Nonfarm wage and salary employment, about 92 percent of total employment, actually increased slightly. So, the loss of total employment, if not due to data collection techniques, would be job losses of workers in agriculture, of domestics, and of self-employed workers.

The number of unemployed increased in February by nearly 4 thousand. That, too, is unusual. Unemployment normally decreases slightly then. To match the seasonal pattern for this month, unemployment should have decreased by about 1800.

An employment decline that exceeded growth of unemployment means that Wisconsin's labor force shrank. Again, that is not normal.

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY SERIES Latest Month		Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	% CHANGE Mo/Ago	% CHANGE Yr/Ago	AVG. 1985
LEADING INDICATORS								
L1 COMPOSITE INDEX OF LEADING INDICATORS								
Seasonally Adjusted	INDEX	100.2	Feb	103.2	73.9	-2.9	35.6	84.3
L2 AVG. WORK WEEK, MFG.								
Unadjusted	HOURS	41.1	Feb	41.3	40.6	-0.5	1.2	41.1
Seasonally Adjusted		41.2		41.3	40.7	-0.2	1.2	
L3 AVG. OVERTIME HOURS, MFG.								
Unadjusted	HOURS	3.5	Feb	3.6	3.0	-2.8	16.7	3.3
Seasonally Adjusted		3.6		3.7	3.1	-2.7	16.1	
L4 AVG. WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	8,674	Feb	12,693	12,569	-31.7	-31.0	10,380
Seasonally Adjusted		8,340		10,090	12,081	-17.3	-31.0	
L5 TOTAL JOB OPENINGS REC.								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	5,533	Feb	6,188	6,247	-10.6	-11.4	8,228
Seasonally Adjusted		7,973		8,351	9,005	-4.5	-11.5	
L6 NEW BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	494	Feb	575	496	-14.1	-0.4	542
Seasonally Adjusted		556		614	559	-9.4	-0.5	
L7 NET GAIN IN BUSINESS PHONES ACCESS LINES								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	70	Feb	1,547	-9	-95.5	877.8	1,356
Seasonally Adjusted		2,315		2,499	928	-7.4	149.5	
L8 BUILDING PLANS EXAMINED								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	390	Feb	465	297	-16.1	31.3	526
Seasonally Adjusted		597		724	455	-17.5	31.2	
ROUGHLY COINCIDING INDICATORS								
C1 HELP-WANTED INDEX (MILW.)								
Seasonally Adjusted	INDEX	60	Feb	55	56	9.1	7.1	55
C2 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, TOTAL								
Unadjusted	PERCENT	8.8	Feb	8.6	9.3	-	-	7.2
Seasonally Adjusted		7.4		7.2	7.9	-	-	
C3 NATURAL GAS SALES								
Unadjusted	MIL. THERMS	447.3	Jan	480.6	503.0	-6.9	-11.1	252.9
Seasonally Adjusted		230.7		292.3	259.4	-21.1	-11.1	
C4 NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	14,953	Feb	16,150	13,205	-7.4	13.2	16,697
Seasonally Adjusted		20,172		18,405	17,802	9.6	13.3	
C5 ELECTRIC POWER SALES								
Unadjusted	MIL. KWH	1902.6	Jan	1948.0	1905.6	-2.3	-0.2	1893.9
Seasonally Adjusted		1887.5		1976.4	1890.3	-4.5	-0.1	
C6 TOTAL SECURITIES REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	MIL. DOL.	255.7	Feb	86.5	103.3	195.6	147.5	131.3
Seasonally Adjusted		181.6		81.1	73.4	123.9	147.4	

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

INDICATOR	UNIT	MONTHLY SERIES Latest Month		Mo/Ago	Yr/Ago	% CHANGE Mo/Ago	% CHANGE Yr/Ago	AVG. 1985
C7 MANUFACTURING EMPL.								
Unadjusted	THOUS.	508.1	Feb	507.7	500.4	0.1	1.5	515.2
Seasonally Adjusted		520.1		518.1	512.1	0.4	1.6	
C8 AVG. WEEKLY EARNINGS, MFG.								
Unadjusted	DOLLARS	427.85	Feb	431.17	413.31	-0.8	3.5	421.57
Seasonally Adjusted		424.45		427.75	410.22	-0.8	3.5	
C9 CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MKTG.								
Unadjusted	MIL. DOL.	451.9	Dec	452.0	456.4	-0.0	-1.0	421.0
Seasonally Adjusted		427.3		409.2	432.7	4.4	-1.2	
C10 CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPL.								
Unadjusted	THOUS.	53.3	Feb	57.0	49.3	-6.5	8.1	62.8
Seasonally Adjusted		68.9		69.3	63.7	-0.6	8.2	
OTHER KEY INDICATORS								
X1 BIRTH REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	5,419	Feb	5,896	5,299	-8.1	2.3	6,141
Seasonally Adjusted		5,948		5,454	5,819	9.1	2.2	
X2 DEATH REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	3,455	Feb	4,137	3,645	-16.5	-5.2	3,475
Seasonally Adjusted		3,367		3,328	3,552	1.2	-5.2	
X3 NATURAL NET GAIN POPULATION								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	1,964	Feb	1,759	1,654	11.7	18.7	2,666
Seasonally Adjusted		2,212		2,094	1,863	5.6	18.7	
X4 MARRIAGE REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	1,492	Feb	2,042	1,571	-26.9	-5.0	3,360
Seasonally Adjusted		2,943		3,118	3,099	-5.6	-5.0	
X5 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (MILW.)				(Nov)				
Unadjusted	INDEX	353.0	Jan	333.9	324.6	5.7	8.7	330.5
X6 PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS								
Unadjusted	INDEX	132	Feb	133	143	-0.8	-7.7	133
Seasonally Adjusted		130		131	139	-0.8	-6.5	
X7 NET GAIN IN RESIDENTIAL PHONES ACCESS LINES								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	444	Feb	1,584	1,964	-72.0	-77.4	1,615
Seasonally Adjusted		1,016		1,242	2,042	-18.2	-50.2	
X8 LABOR DISPUTES, NO. OF WORKERS								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	489	Feb	489	45	0.0	986.7	450
Seasonally Adjusted		2,296		722	211	218.0	988.2	
X9 UNEMPL. COMPENSATION EXHAUSTEES								
Unadjusted	NUMBER	26,026	Feb	25,626	25,020	1.6	4.0	26,616
Seasonally Adjusted		28,106		29,220	27,021	-3.8	4.0	

Section

B LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES FEBRUARY	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Unadjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2338.3	2341.5	2352.4	-0.1	-0.6
Employment (Inc. Labor Disputes)	2133.3	2140.3	2133.3	-0.3	0.0
Unemployment	205.0	201.2	219.1	1.9	-6.4
Unemployment Rate	8.8	8.6	9.3	-	-
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2379.8	2384.5	2391.6	-0.2	-0.5
Employment (Inc. Labor Disputes)	2203.8	2213.3	2203.6	-0.4	0.0
Unemployment	176.0	171.2	188.0	2.8	-6.4
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.2	7.9	-	-

WISCONSIN EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES FEBRUARY	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	1955.6	1953.4	1914.4	0.1	2.2
Unadjusted					
Manufacturing	507.6	507.2	500.4	0.1	1.4
Mining	1.5	1.6	1.2	-6.2	25.0
Contract Construction	53.3	57.0	49.3	-6.5	8.1
Transportation and Public Utilities	92.3	92.4	90.9	-0.1	1.5
Elec., Gas and Sanitary Services	17.2	17.2	17.0	0.0	1.2
Wholesale Trade	96.2	96.9	96.8	-0.7	-0.6
Retail Trade	352.9	355.0	343.7	-0.6	2.7
General Merchandise	46.5	47.3	47.3	-1.7	-1.7
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	104.7	104.7	101.6	0.0	3.1
Banking	28.4	28.5	27.6	-0.4	2.9
Insurance	34.7	34.7	33.9	0.0	2.4
Service and Miscellaneous	415.8	413.6	404.8	0.5	2.7
Hospitals	65.6	65.5	67.1	0.2	-2.2
Private Education	23.7	22.3	25.1	6.3	-5.6
Government	331.2	325.1	325.7	1.9	1.7
State Government	83.4	82.8	84.6	0.7	-1.4
Local Government	219.9	214.6	214.3	2.5	2.6

UNITED STATES LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES FEBRUARY	(In Thousands)			Pct. Chg.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	117,088	116,786	114,982	0.3	1.8
Employment	108,561	108,955	106,587	-0.4	1.9
Unemployment	8,527	7.831	8,395	8.9	1.6
Unemployment Rate	7.3	6.7	7.3	-	-

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT *(Unadjusted)* FEBRUARY	(In Thousands)		
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago
All Manufacturing (Including Canning)	507.6	507.2	500.4
All Manufacturing (Excluding Canning)	500.4	500.1	492.8
Durable Goods	313.5	313.3	310.6
Lumber and Wood Prod., (Except Furniture)	22.7	22.8	21.0
Sawmills and Planning Mills	3.3	3.3	3.2
Millwork, Veneer, Plywood & Prefab. Wood Prod.	10.7	10.7	9.5
Furniture and Fixtures	10.0	10.0	9.7
Household Furniture	4.2	4.1	4.2
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	7.0	7.2	6.6
Concrete, Gypsum and Plaster Products	2.9	3.2	2.5
Primary Metal Industries	19.2	19.2	19.4
Iron and Steel Foundries	10.2	10.3	10.6
Fabricated Metal Products	51.6	51.3	51.3
Heating Equipment (Except Electrical) & Plumbing Fixtures	5.8	5.8	6.2
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	12.6	12.4	11.9
Metal Stampings	10.8	10.8	11.5
Machinery (Except Electrical)	101.7	101.2	100.5
Engines and Turbines	19.2	19.1	19.9
Farm Machinery and Equipment	12.7	12.5	11.4
Const., Min. & Material Handling Mach. & Equip.	11.2	10.9	11.6
Metalworking Machinery and Equipment	11.7	11.8	11.5
Special Industry Machinery (Except Metalworking)	12.6	12.5	12.4
General Industrial Machinery and Equipment	13.5	13.5	14.2
Service Industry Machines	7.1	7.2	7.5
Electrical Machinery, Equipment and Supplies	49.5	49.8	50.9
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	17.3	17.6	17.5
Household Appliances	6.2	6.2	6.8
Transportation Equipment	30.4	30.7	29.7
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	22.9	23.3	23.7
Instruments and Related Products	11.5	11.6	11.4
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	9.8	9.7	10.1
Nondurable Goods	194.2	193.9	189.9
Food and Kindred Products	56.6	56.4	55.8
Meat Products	14.2	14.1	13.6
Dairy Products	17.0	16.9	16.1
Canning and Preserving	7.2	7.1	7.6
Bakery Products	4.1	4.2	4.1
Beverage Industries	7.7	7.7	8.2
Textile Mill Products	3.8	4.0	4.1
Knitting Mills	3.2	3.3	3.3
Apparel and Other Finished Products	6.5	6.6	5.9
Paper and Allied Products	48.0	47.9	46.9
Pulp and Paper Mills	29.3	29.4	29.1
Converted Paper and Paperboard Products	10.7	10.5	9.9
Paperboard Containers and Boxes	6.6	6.6	6.6
Printing, Publishing and Allied Industries	38.4	38.5	37.6
Newspapers	12.1	12.0	11.7
Commercial Printing	16.7	16.7	16.3
Chemicals and Allied Products	9.8	10.0	9.7
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	24.1	23.3	22.2
Miscellaneous Plastics Products	19.7	18.9	17.5
Leather and Leather Products	6.8	7.0	7.4
Leather Tanning and Finishing	1.7	1.7	2.0
Footwear (Except Rubber)	3.5	3.6	3.8
Other Nondurable Goods	-	-	-

Section

C WISCONSIN EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS *(Unadjusted)* FEBRUARY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours		
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	$428	$431	$413	41.1	41.3	40.6
All Manufacturing (Excl. Canning)	430	433	415	41.2	41.4	40.6
Durable Goods	439	441	424	41.5	41.5	40.6
Lumber/Wood Prod. (Exc. Furn.)	324	318	306	40.7	40.6	40.2
Furniture and Fixtures	318	317	295	41.2	40.9	40.9
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	410	411	386	42.0	42.3	41.4
Primary Metal Industries	418	415	401	42.6	42.6	40.7
Iron and Steel Foundries	416	413	404	42.5	42.8	40.3
Fabricated Metal Products	417	415	410	40.3	40.2	40.2
Fab. Structural Metal Prod.	435	439	414	41.9	42.5	41.4
Metal Stampings	429	426	395	39.8	39.6	38.8
Machinery (Except Electrical)	504	508	472	42.8	42.9	41.0
Engines and Turbines	574	590	502	42.9	44.0	40.3
Farm Machinery and Equip.	526	528	497	41.6	40.4	40.2
Const. and Related Mach.	488	489	471	43.3	43.2	40.3
Metalworking Mach. and Equip.	537	538	500	43.8	44.0	41.8
Spec. Ind. Mach. (Exc. Metal).	520	519	477	44.6	44.6	43.1
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	500	505	506	41.1	41.5	41.8
Electrical Mach., Equip. and Supp.	403	405	396	40.4	40.3	40.1
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	421	423	415	40.7	40.4	40.5
Transportation Equipment	559	574	563	41.4	41.8	41.1
Instruments and Related Prod.	349	347	341	39.0	39.3	38.8
Nondurable Goods	409	416	396	40.5	41.1	40.6
Food and Kindred Products	383	389	371	39.4	40.0	39.6
Meat Products	357	368	327	39.5	40.7	38.6
Dairy Products	384	381	378	39.7	39.4	40.5
Textile Mill Products	290	307	284	39.1	39.8	39.9
Apparel and Other Fin. Prod.	239	234	236	39.0	38.0	38.7
Paper and Allied Products	533	544	516	44.5	45.4	45.1
Pulp and Paper Mills	578	582	564	45.6	46.1	46.7
Printing, Pub. and Allied Prod.	415	427	401	38.4	39.0	37.5
Chemicals and Allied Products	460	469	471	40.7	41.4	42.7
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Prod.	332	334	317	39.6	40.2	39.3
Leather and Leather Products.	249	251	252	38.1	38.5	38.4

Section

C WISCONSIN EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS *(Unadjusted)* FEBRUARY	Average Hourly Earnings Including O.T.			Average Hourly Earnings Excluding O.T.		
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	10.41	10.44	10.18	9.97	9.99	9.82
All Manufacturing (Excl. Canning)	10.44	10.47	10.21	10.01	10.02	9.85
Durable Goods	10.59	10.63	10.44	10.19	10.20	10.11
Lumber/Wood Prod. (Exc. Furn.)	7.95	7.84	7.62	7.75	7.67	7.56
Furniture and Fixtures	7.71	7.75	7.22	7.46	7.48	7.08
Stone, Clay and Glass Products	9.77	9.71	9.32	9.42	9.38	9.17
Primary Metal Industries	9.81	9.74	9.85	9.36	9.32	9.52
Iron and Steel Foundries	9.79	9.66	10.02	9.44	9.36	9.75
Fabricated Metal Products	10.34	10.33	10.20	9.97	9.86	9.78
Fab. Structural Metal Prod.	10.39	10.33	10.01	9.95	9.87	9.56
Metal Stampings	10.77	10.76	10.19	10.46	9.89	9.99
Machinery (Except Electrical)	11.77	11.83	11.50	11.26	11.31	11.18
Engines and Turbines	13.39	13.41	12.45	12.60	12.55	12.18
Farm Machinery and Equip.	12.65	13.08	12.37	12.25	12.70	12.04
Const. and Related Mach.	11.27	11.33	11.68	10.83	10.96	11.50
Metalworking Mach. and Equip.	12.25	12.23	11.97	11.68	11.65	11.45
Spec. Ind. Mach. (Exc. Metal) .	11.67	11.64	11.06	10.99	10.99	10.53
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	12.17	12.17	12.10	11.67	11.61	11.75
Electrical Mach., Equip. and Supp.	9.98	10.05	9.88	9.68	9.76	9.66
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	10.35	10.48	10.25	10.08	10.23	10.11
Transportation Equipment	13.50	13.73	13.71	13.02	13.18	13.11
Instruments and Related Prod.	8.96	8.84	8.80	8.81	8.69	8.66
Nondurable Goods	10.10	10.13	9.75	9.62	9.63	9.32
Food and Kindred Products	9.71	9.72	9.36	9.27	9.24	8.94
Meat Products	9.04	9.05	8.46	8.72	8.56	8.11
Dairy Products	9.67	9.68	9.34	9.26	9.30	8.91
Textile Mill Products	7.41	7.71	7.13	7.26	7.45	6.91
Apparel and Other Fin. Prod.	6.13	6.17	6.10	6.02	6.13	5.99
Paper and Allied Products	11.97	11.98	11.45	11.35	11.36	10.93
Pulp and Paper Mills	12.68	12.62	12.08	12.03	11.99	11.54
Printing, Pub. and Allied Prod.	10.81	10.95	10.70	–	–	–
Chemicals and Allied Products	11.29	11.33	11.04	11.08	11.09	10.63
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Prod.	8.39	8.32	8.06	8.12	8.02	7.80
Leather and Leather Products.	6.54	6.52	6.57	6.33	6.32	6.48

Section

C SUMMARY OF RECENT WISCONSIN DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS, MFG. Production Workers *(Unadjusted)* FEBRUARY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings Including O.T.			Average Hourly Earnings Excluding O.T.	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago
United States	$389	$394	$374	40.2	40.7	39.7	9.68	9.68	9.43	-	-
Wisconsin	428	431	413	41.1	41.3	40.7	10.41	10.44	10.18	9.97	9.99
Selected Areas											
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	438	446	415	42.9	43.9	41.7	10.22	10.16	9.97	9.72	9.66
Beloit (City)	404	396	357	41.8	41.6	38.6	9.67	9.51	9.25	-	-
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	409	412	429	39.5	39.4	42.2	10.35	10.46	10.17	10.17	10.17
Fond du Lac (County)	383	397	391	39.7	41.6	42.8	9.64	9.54	9.14	9.18	9.01
Green Bay (Brown County)	481	486	444	42.0	42.6	40.7	11.46	11.40	10.90	10.77	10.66
Janesville (City)	541	577	546	39.6	40.9	40.2	13.67	14.10	13.58	13.51	13.80
Janesville-Beloit (Rock County)	487	509	469	40.2	41.1	39.4	12.11	12.38	11.90	11.86	12.02
Kenosha (County)	411	406	466	39.7	38.7	39.1	10.35	10.49	11.92	10.10	10.25
La Crosse (County)	358	353	341	39.8	39.4	38.3	9.00	8.96	8.91	8.89	8.87
Madison (Dane County)	382	401	378	40.3	40.9	39.9	9.47	9.81	9.47	9.22	9.45
Manitowoc (County)	390	377	364	39.9	39.0	38.7	9.78	9.66	9.40	9.41	9.38
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Waukesha-Washington)	482	488	466	41.2	41.4	40.8	11.71	11.78	11.41	11.12	11.10
Racine (County)	431	438	402	39.8	39.6	39.0	10.82	11.05	10.30	10.51	10.75
Sheboygan (County)	388	380	393	39.8	40.2	39.8	9.52	9.45	9.88	9.34	9.25
Wausau (Marathon County)	398	411	374	40.2	41.3	40.0	9.89	9.96	9.36	9.61	9.69

EMPLOYMENT, MFG. *(Unadjusted)* FEBRUARY	(In Thousands)			Percent Change	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
United States	19,241.0	19,264.0	19,372.0	-0.1	-0.7
Wisconsin	507.6	507.2	500.4	0.1	1.4
Selected Areas					
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	49.2	49.2	47.2	0.0	4.2
Beloit (City)	5.1	5.2	5.6	-1.9	-8.9
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	9.2	9.2	9.0	0.0	2.2
Fond du Lac (County)	9.8	10.1	10.4	-3.0	-5.8
Green Bay (Brown County)	23.2	23.2	22.6	0.0	2.7
Janesville (City)	10.7	10.8	10.8	-0.9	-0.9
Janesville-Beloit (Rock County)	17.7	17.8	18.1	-0.6	-2.2
Kenosha (County)	9.4	9.8	10.8	-4.1	-13.0
La Crosse (County)	10.6	10.8	10.6	-1.9	0.0
Madison (Dane County)	20.4	20.9	20.1	-2.4	1.5
Manitowoc (County)	11.9	11.6	10.7	2.6	11.2
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Waukesha-Washington)	171.6	171.1	172.4	0.3	-0.5
Racine (County)	24.0	23.9	23.5	0.4	2.1
Sheboygan (County)	17.7	17.9	18.7	-1.1	-5.3
Wausau (Marathon County)	10.6	10.6	10.2	0.0	3.8

HEALTHY SECTORS IN WISCONSIN MANUFACTURING

by Joseph Tumpach, Jr.

Since the latest recession, many economists and business analysts in Wisconsin have bemoaned the poor recovery of the state's manufacturing industries. Manufacturing, after all, has regained only 29 percent of the jobs lost in that sector during the recession. The total nonfarm wage and salary economy, on the other hand, has not only regained lost jobs, but has surpassed the pre-recession employment level by nearly 17 thousand workers.

Citing such evidence as that, analysts perceive more than the normal business-cycle blues in the state's manufacturing economy. They point to the competitive edge in manufacturing enjoyed by low-wage-paying foreign countries, they note the slackening investment in modern plants and equipment that would boost productivity here, and they announce the basic downward trend of manufacturing in Wisconsin.

Service industry employment, in the meantime, has grown...and grown...and grown. The service industry in Wisconsin has gained over 63 thousand jobs since 1979. And, while employment growth did slow, the industry did not lose employment during the recession.

If you entered the labor force in 1979, chances were about 1 in 3 that you found a new job at a manufacturing company. Employment grew by nearly 22 thousand in one year. And that does not include job openings due to retiring workers. In that same year, your chances of filling a new position in the service industry were one in five. Now, seven years later, you and 13 percent of the manufacturing company employees you began working with are employed in a different industry, are retired, or are unemployed.

Some manufacturing industries, despite these bleak impressions, are not bad off! The dramatic and showy rise of service industry employment has eclipsed a fairly healthy sector of manufacturing-the nondurable goods sector. The manufacturing industries are broadly delineated by product: durable and nondurable. Durable goods have a life expectancy of at least 3 years and include a host of products ranging from automobiles to heavy industrial machinery to video cassette recorders. Nondurables are produced for a much more immediate consumption and include such things as processed food, beverages, and paper products. Employment trends in the state clearly reflect that division. While the durable goods manufacturing industries have regained only about 20 percent of their employment lost to the recession, nondurables have regained all and have surpassed their pre-recession employment level. Last year, 1985, durable goods employment decreased by over 7 thousand; but nondurable jobs grew by 3 thousand.

Wisconsin's nondurable manufacturing industries are out-performing nondurables in the country as a whole. The trend for employment in nondurable goods manufacturing has been much better in Wisconsin than throughout the entire nation. Over the long term, from 1977 through 1985, nondurable employment in the U.S. declined by nearly 2.8 percent. During the same period, Wisconsin nondurable manufacturers increased employment by 5.3 percent. While that gain does not seem large, the state's nondurable goods producers were affected by the recession. Since its recessionary low in 1982, the nondurable goods manufacturing employment level increased by nearly 12 thousand throughout the state.

Employment growth varies among the many different industries which make-up the nondurable manufacturing

sector. Wisconsin has had consistent strength in several nondurable industries.

The state's food and beverage processing industry, for example, has maintained an employment level of over 60 thousand for several years. While the 1985 average employment level is down slightly from pre-recession years, the level has been rising since 1983. The 1985 employment level of 62,400 amounted to over 30 percent of all nondurable goods manufacturing employment. The last recession seems to have had only a mild impact on the food and beverage manufacturing industries. Only about 2,500 jobs out of 64 thousand in the food and beverage industry were lost in the recession. That's less than 4 percent, which compares to over 22 percent in the state's total manufacturing sector. Many jobs in food processing, however, are seasonal and are not year-round employment opportunities.

If you work in food and kindred product manufacturing during August, changes are about 1 out of 4 that you will not be working there in January, February, or March. Employment in that industry peaks at about 74 thousand in August, but in mid-winter tapers off by about 16 or 17 thousand.

Wisconsin's paper and allied products industries, also in the nondurable group, employed over 48 thousand workers in 1985. Employment had peaked at 48,900 workers in 1979, then declined to 47,600 during the recession. Many were concerned with the industry's movement to other regions of the country. During the last several years, the nation's paper industry has progressively become concentrated in the South. However, that movement is basically the primary paper products industries-pulp and paper making industries-which have relocated near abundant reserves of long-fibered southern pine. Those industries tend to be capital or machine intensive. In contrast, establishments of the more labor intensive industries, paper and paperboard converting industries, are widely spread throughout the country. And, Wisconsin has consistently increased its share of national employment in the paper and allied product manufacturing industry.

Wisconsin's printing and publishing is one of the few nondurable manufacturing industries which was only negligibly affected by the last recession. Job growth amounts to 5,800 since 1979; and to 9,200 since 1977. This industry has grown throughout the nation, and Wisconsin's printing and publishing employment is more than keeping pace. Employment growth in the nation has amounted to over 15 percent since 1979 in the industry; growth in Wisconsin has amounted to nearly 18 percent. The growth pace has been exceeded only by the service industries. But, the wage scale in printing and publishing is about 30 percent higher than in the service sector. This is a reverse of the current trend of job growth in low-wage industries.

If you worked in the printing and publishing industry in Wisconsin during the last quarter of 1984, you earned about 25 dollars more per week than the average worker in all nonfarm wage and salary industries. And you earned about 90 dollars per week more than the average worker in the service sector.

A surprising amount of employment growth is taking place in Wisconsin's rubber and miscellaneous plastics products industry. From just over 17 thousand workers in 1977, this industry has grown to 22,600 in 1985. Along the way, the recession had reduced employment to 16,500, but the industry has gained over 6 thousand employees since 1982.

(Continued on back cover)

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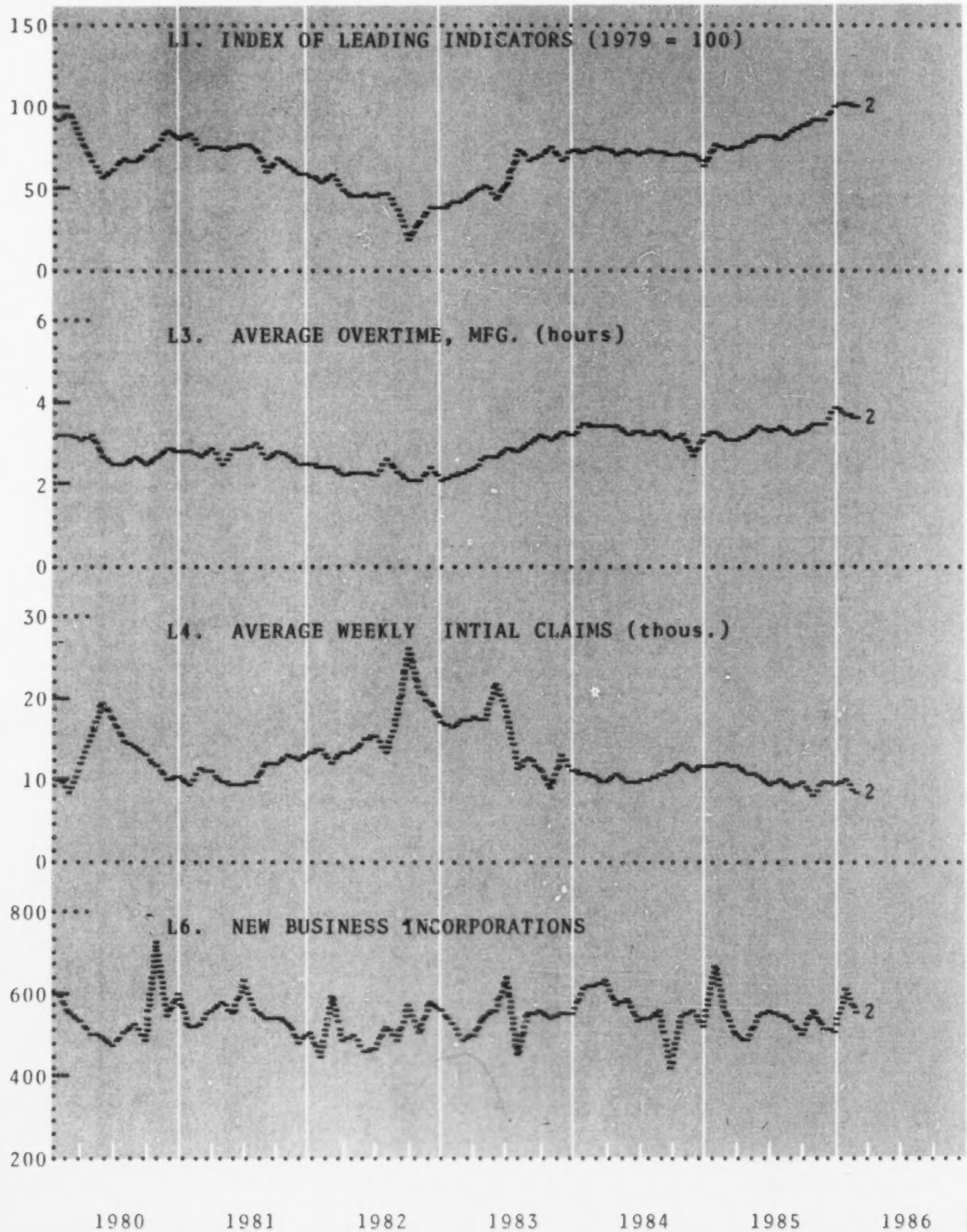

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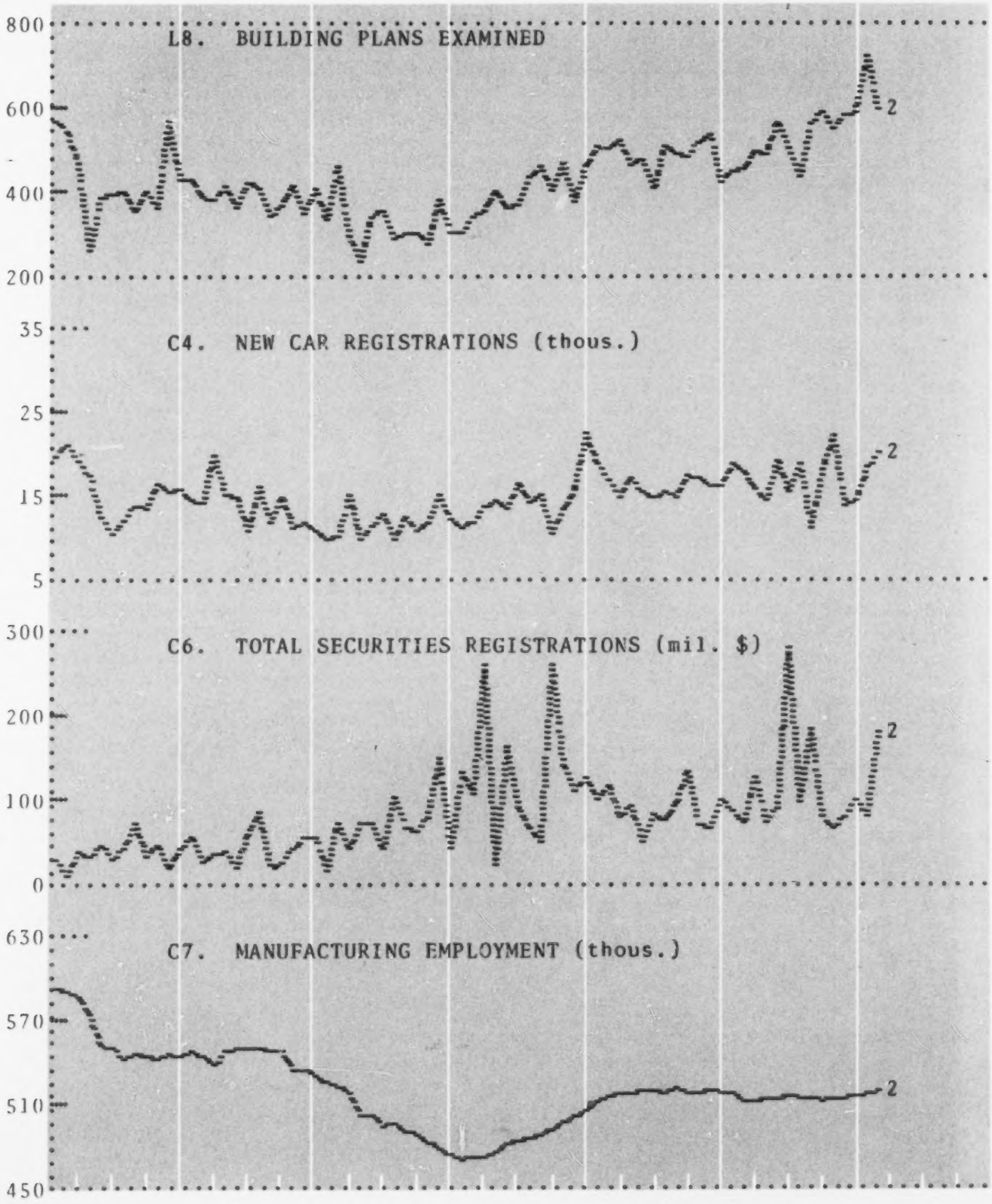

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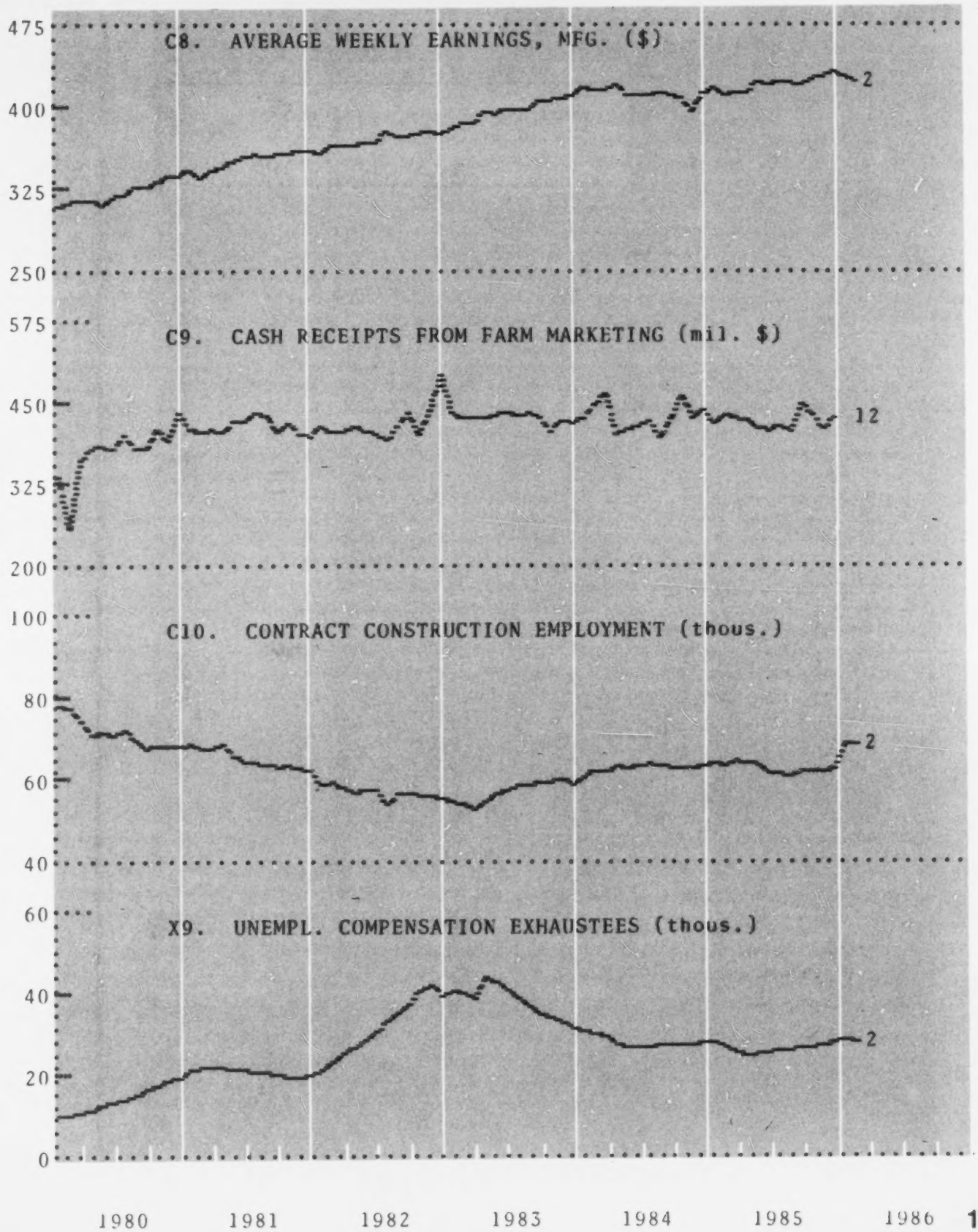

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(Continued from page 10)

The industry could justly be renamed the miscellaneous plastics products and rubber industry: over 75 percent of employment is in plastic products. And, the impetus to growth has been innovations in plastic containers, particularly for foods and beverages...the plastic gallon milk container and the two-liter soft drink bottle, for example, along with plastic wrap for perishable foods.

Wisconsin's chemical and allied product industry employs between 9 and 10 thousand workers. Growth from year to year has varied within that range since 1977.

The primary chemical products manufactured in the state are organic chemicals related to the dairy industry, floor care products, and pharmaceuticals.

Not all of the state's nondurable manufacturing industries are large and expanding. The nondurable manufacturing industries, taken together as a sector, however, have grown by 12 thousand employees since the recession, employed nearly two-hundred thousand workers in 1985, and represent about 10 percent of the state's nonfarm wage and salary workers.